

**Talking Points for a Presentation**

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**to the Group of 78**

**ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE**

**Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation:**

**The United Nations at 70**

**Ottawa September 26, 2015**

*Check Against Delivery*

Assume a changed government (otherwise why meet?)

Assume a constructive posture on the UN by the new  
government

But also assume there will not be a simple return to the status  
quo ante because:

1. The Harper government has done enormous damage to  
the Canadian diplomatic brand generally and nowhere  
more so than on UN affairs and specifically at UN  
headquarters;

2. Recouping what has been lost will take time and money; to regain others' confidence we will need to do both talk a good game and to play it;
3. Different challenges in different times; the UN needs to be in a state of continuous reform.
4. Not everything was fine with the UN before the Conservatives assumed office

What could we do to show that Canada is “back” and willing to assume our fair share of the burden of global governance?

In addition to treating the Conservative interlude as a bad dream, we need to get active ASAP.

The new government will need to send signals of its intent—then act on those signals.

The following is one possible package of a dozen things we could do to get back in the game of global diplomacy and constructive cooperation.

1. The new Prime Minister should make an early visit to the UN (in the context of a call on the Economic Club of New York or the Americas Society or the Foreign Policy Association)
2. We should declare our candidacy for the 2022 Security Council election (against Switzerland) or 2020 (against

Ireland and Norway) or 2018 against Belgium, Germany and Israel

3. We should declare our candidacy for the UN Human Rights Council
4. We should declare our support for reforms in/of the UN Security Council—e.g., extended and successive terms for elected members—and we should play into the Council from outside on major issues , notably military issues
5. We should contribute ideas to reform the selection process of the Secretary General; push for greater UNGA participation in vetting prospective SGs
6. We should declare our willingness to contribute to peacekeeping, especially force multipliers, force commanders (Ramos Horta report)

7. We should signal changes in our position in the lead-up to the Climate Change conference in Paris and join the consensus that emerges (more likely as consequence of agreement today between the Americans and Chinese; PM to attend to underline our commitment
8. We should push for reform of WHO and a more operational, less political mandate
9. We should seek reform of the global management of refugee issues including, for example, on burden-sharing in the resettlement of refugees, updating refugee definitions, shifting from voluntary to mandatory funding, (like the UN regular budget), merging R2P and the protection of refugees including prevention measures, and convening a global conference

10. We should push for more senior Canadians to join the UN secretariat.
11. We should use the G20 to work for UN reform
12. We should recognize that the UN is necessary but not sufficient to cope with today's and tomorrow's problems; we need to help to innovate new forms of cooperative governance, including mini-lateralism, multi-stakeholder, regional leadership, coalitions of the policy willing and where necessary of the military willing

Such a package would renew our multilateral commitments and signal that Canada is back.

